

## Biosecurity for Vaccination

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### Introduction

This note provides guidance on how to use Virkon® Aquatic for vaccination biosecurity.

- Vaccination is one of the most vulnerable times for fish and losses due to infection acquired at this time can blight a whole crop.
- Vaccination ALWAYS leads to abrasion of the skin of every fish during handling. The penetrating needle also carries bacteria from the surface or from the previous fish, into the abdomen.
- Vaccination is stressful and makes fish less resistant to infection.
- Vaccinators/ equipment work on a number of sites and cross-infect.
- Mortalities from fungal and bacterial infection can be very high after vaccination, particularly in summer and in lochs.

### Essentials

- Ensure personal biosecurity of vaccinating team
- Continuously disinfect all nets and fish contact surfaces
- Reduce initial pathogen loading on surface of fish.
- Regularly disinfect all needles and vaccination equipment

### Personnel

Footbaths should be used and waterproof clothing sprayed with 1% Virkon® Aquatic. Hand washes should be used.

### Nets and surfaces

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Hold dip nets in bucket of 1% Virkon® Aquatic between use. (Two tablets per litre).  
Spray 1% Virkon® Aquatic over the disinfection table or automatic grader surfaces at regular intervals, after washing off slime.

#### Water Treatment

Fish should be held before vaccination, and vaccinated, in Virkon® Aquatic fogged water at 5ppm. Fogged water is made up by adding one. Virkon® Aquatic tablet to one litre of fresh water and then adding that to an IBC containing 1000 litres of water. Ideally fish should be held in fogged water also while they recover from anaesthetic and before returning to their tanks or cages.

